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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:	
Wilfreid W. Merkel et al	:	
Application No. 10/018,651	:	DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: March 1, 2002	:	UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)
Attorney Docket No. 1914	:	

This is a decision on the renewed petition filed March 28, 2005 under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 for the benefit of priority to prior-filed nonprovisional Application No. 09/284,399, as set forth in the concurrently filed amendment.¹

The petition is **GRANTED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The instant pending application was filed on March 1, 2002, and was pending at the time of filing of the instant petition. A reference to the above-noted prior-filed nonprovisional application has been included in an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title as required by 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(iii).

¹ Note 37 CFR 1.4(c).

The instant nonprovisional application was filed after November 29, 2000, and the claim herein for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed nonprovisional application is submitted after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). Also, the reference to the prior-filed nonprovisional application was submitted during the pendency of the instant nonprovisional application, for which the claim for benefit of priority is sought. *See* 35 U.S.C. § 120. Accordingly, having found that the instant petition for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to the prior-filed nonprovisional application satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), the petition is granted.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed application under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) should not be construed as meaning that the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application. In order for the instant application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(1) and (a)(2) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed application should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed application noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to Irvin Dingle at (571) 272-3210.

This matter is being referred to Technology Center Art Unit 1744.



Frances Hicks
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

Attachment: Corrected Filing Receipt